



"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS. NEUTRAL IN NONE."

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## A PAPSUCKER'S JOKE.

**Illinois Laughs Over Attempt to Exploit Harrison as Dictator of National Campaign Policies.**

**Chicago Democrats Holding Their Sides Over Pretensions of Payroll Brigade and Its Leader.**

**The "Grub-Club" Picnic Is Aptly Described by Its Promoters as a Circus.**

**"His Nibs" of the City Hall Would Be Political Poo-Bah of Western Democracy.**

**And a Presidential Candidate, if You Please—This Is Truly a Papsucker's Joke.**

It is peculiarly appropriate that the proposed Chicago Democracy picnic has been announced by its promoters as "a circus."

There are to be three rings in it, and it goes without saying there will be several clowns.

The event which will doubtless cause more laughter than anything else in connection with this circus, will be the spectacle of Chicago's Mayorette strutting out into the center ring to "sound the keynote of the Democratic party platform in the next national campaign."

This will be rich. Anybody whose risibilities will not be disturbed by this sight must be a very serious and sober individual indeed.

As a matter of fact all Chicago has been for the past week laughing heartily over the announcement, that "hiz-zoner" was to "enter the field of national politics" as the framer of policies, and as a possible candidate—save the mark—for the Presidency.

Even the payroll brigade over in the City Hall, including the "grub club," that "Capansen" is to lead to the grounds, are laughing in their sleeves at the notion of "his nibs" coming out as a national leader.

It is said that such an array of garbage contractors, alley inspectors, paving inspectors, water pipe inspectors, sidewalk inspectors, fish inspectors, water department clerks, street department runners, and members of the papsuckers general association never has come to the front for "the cause" as has been called upon to boost this City Hall picnic.

Of course the payroll patriots will "come up." There won't be anybody left in the City Hall after the grub club gets started for the picnic grounds—and then the destinies of the nation will begin to be molded by "his nibs" the Mayorette.

David Bennett Hill had better look out, now the grub club and "hiz-zoner" have taken this business of national politics in hand. The payroll brigade of Chicago will attend to this business in future. The same may apply to Grover Cleveland, Richard Olney, W. C. Whitney and the other erstwhile leaders of Democracy in the East. The Payroll Brigade, the grub club, "hiz-zoner," "Capansen" and "Capitoll" have transferred the seat of power, and will run the whole caboodle in future.

So also with the stalwart Democrats of the South and West, who have in the past been leaders of the national Democracy. "Hiz-zoner" and the grub club are after them!

No wonder the touters of the payroll picnic have proclaimed it to be a circus. It will be one beyond doubt, and the most side-splitting performance, if the programme is carried out, will be that of the funny little leader of the payroll brigade.

Maxey Wolf, the peerless dispenser of constabulary authority, on the West side of Clark street between Washington and Madison, is a peach—a ripe, bearded, handsome peach.

One of the members of the City Civil Service Commission took it upon himself the other day to announce that that body is open to communications of any kind concerning "graff charges" against the police. The

Eagle does not know what is meant by the use of the word "open" in this connection; but had previous commissions paid less attention to anonymous and indiscriminate charges of this kind, good police officers would have been spared great and lasting injustice.

If you have never seen Chief Justice Maxey Wolf in action, drop in some day and see how he works.

The payroll clique on the County Central Committee has not yet recovered from the "facer" administered by the Circuit and Superior Court Judges.

Mr. Edward Tilden's reappointment as a member of the Board of Education has given satisfaction to the entire public. Mr. Tilden is of the right caliber for such an office. His services in the past speak for themselves, and his reappointment will be welcomed by every friend of the public schools.

A lot of labor unionists, municipal ownership cranks, and other wild-eyed gentlemen succeeded in prevailing upon the city council to pass a resolution on Monday night last, declaring the ninety-nine year traction act, "a negligible quantity." Of course, the sapient city fathers knew what they were talking about.

Is there another deal hidden away somewhere in the high water pressure system ordinance? If so the people will find it out and wipe it out in due time.

How is it that the City Council is called upon to discriminate in the matter of bay windows for down town business concerns? Is there one law for one class of business people and another for another in this connection?

Another conceit of the "Warwick" of the city payroll brigade is that Harrison is cut out for National Committeeman. This is as laughable as the talk about his Presidential aspirations. Hon. Thomas Gahan can have this office as long as he wants it, and in case of his voluntary retirement some man of his indomitable energy, some political experience and wisdom will be chosen to succeed him. Harrison has about as much chance of becoming National Committeeman, as he had a year ago of being elected chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee.

Several appointments were sent in to the council by Mayor Harrison on Monday evening. One of those which gave most satisfaction to the general public was the appointment of Mr. John C. Fetzer as member of the School Board.

Mr. Fetzer is one of the greatest and most successful of Chicago's business men, yet with characteristic public spirit, he has agreed to give of his valuable time to the work of aiding in the conduct of our public school system. It is such men the people want in such places. The people have

confidence that public institutions of vital importance such as the school system are safe in their hands. Mr. Fetzer will be a decided gain to the Board of Education.

Among the comic-strip of the political gossip of the week was the solemn discussion in payroll circles of Mayor Harrison's intention to be the leader of the Democratic delegation to the next national convention. The story of the complete discomfiture of Harrison and rout of his payroll brigade by John P. Hopkins and his followers at the last State convention, is still fresh in the minds of Illinois Democrats. That incident shows just how much chance Harrison has of being the leader of the Illinois Democracy next year or at any other time.

Maxey Wolf, our popular South Side justice, is very particular about when and where he dines. He would not be seen in the company of loan sharks for anything. Not Maxey!

Republican politics down the State will hum when Governor Yates gets home next week. The governor has a way of repairing and strengthening his political fences that in the past caused those opposed to him more than one surprise. He has, notwithstanding the calumnies of his political opponents, in the press and out of it, a splendid record as an able, upright chief executive. Anybody who imagines the Governor will not be very much in it, in the approaching gubernatorial campaign will find himself very much mistaken.

Mr. Michael Shields, who has just been appointed a member of the Board of Education, will prove a very valuable addition to that body. He is a merchant of the highest standing, a useful citizen, and a man of varied experience in business and public life. Mr. Shields gave a good account of himself as a member of the Library Board, previous to his last appointment, and will undoubtedly continue to do so in his new and wider field of labors.

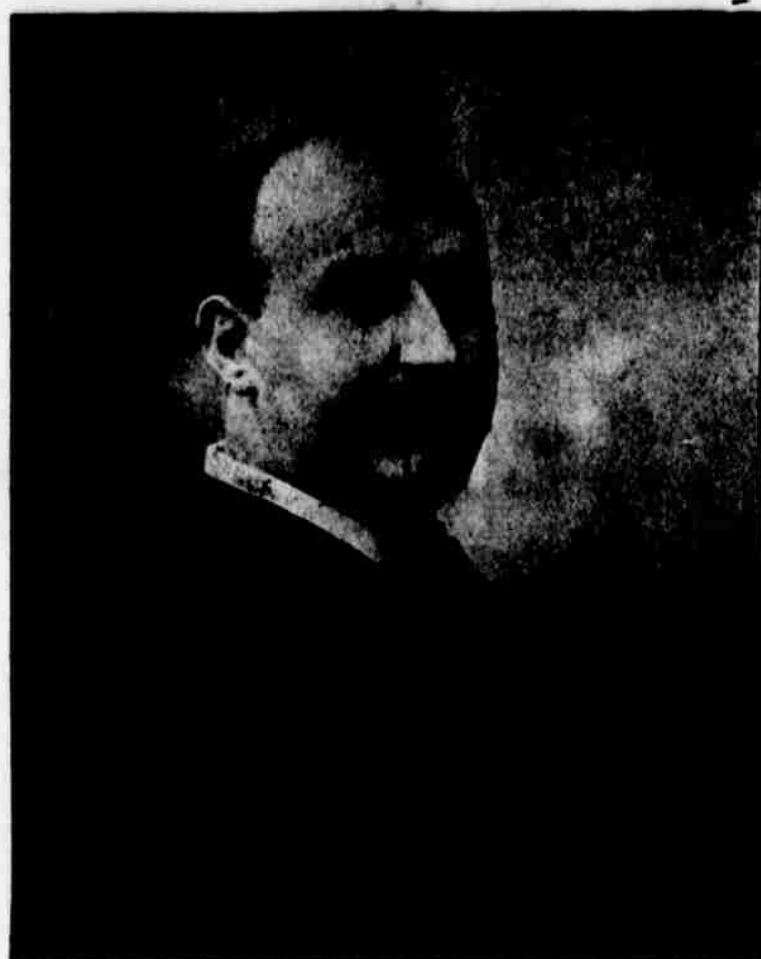
Many a Clark street Max-in had its origin with Maxey Wolf.

Some Democrats are curious to learn how Carter H. and Dublin J. will get over that trifling difference of opinion which occurred between them over the silver plank and the indorsement of the Chicago platform at Kansas City three years ago.

Thirteen deaths from Fourth of July celebrations is the record up to date. All the victims were carried away by lockjaw caused by wounds received on the holiday. Will the year's dreadful

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record have the effect of stirring up the authorities to the suppression of this form of anarchy. If so the victims may not "have died in vain."

So Harrison is going to break out into National politics with a base ball bat. If he doesn't fan out he will surely be left on first base.

The ice inquiry has proved a fizzle. Just as we thought it would.

Mayor Harrison vetoed the ice appropriation for the poor during the heated term. Very kind of him to be sure.

"Capansen" is said to be likely to get some sort of a city job in return for his equestrian stunt with the grub club. He'd better look out or he may only succeed in "catching a fly."

Hon. John S. Miller has been appointed attorney for the receiver of the Union Traction Company, and in all future negotiations he will be the personal representative of Judge Grosscup. The federal jurist made a wise selection, as no able lawyer could be retained to conserve and protect the interest of the traction people.

Maxey Wolf is a very popular justice of the peace.

Apocryph of the grub club picnic, the esteemed Chronicle says: "Whether Mayor Harrison is aiming at the Presidency or the Vice-Presidency is not divulged." It does not matter.

Chief of Police Frank O'Neill has just completed his thirtieth year of service in the police department. The Eagle congratulates the chief and wishes him many happy returns.

Whoever may be selected for president of the Board of Education for the ensuing year, the Board should put its foot down on the proposition to attach a salary to that office.

Monday was a busy night in the council. Besides discussing several matters of importance, the aldermen received numerous appointments from the Mayor in addition to those mentioned. All were confirmed as follows: For Civil Service Commission: Joseph W. Errant, to succeed himself. For members of the Board of Education, Graham Harris, E. C. Dudley, to succeed themselves; P. S. O'Regan, to succeed Thomas Gallagher. Thomas J. Elderkin, Redmond Prindiville and Philip Steiner were appointed vessel dispatchers. For members of the Public Library Board, Samuel Depres, suc-

ceeding Jacob Frank; John W. Lowe, succeeding himself; F. A. Linkstrand, succeeding Arthur Meeker; Dennis J. Egan, succeeding Michael Shields. For member of Board of Bridewell Inspectors, George Mason.

Inspection of the business section for violations of the elevator ordinance continues to be vigorously prosecuted by the Building Department. It is to be hoped the good work will be kept up until the law has been enforced in the letter and the spirit.

Grant Park is to be turned over to the South Park system by the city. Such action has been recommended by the council committee on streets and alleys south and doubtless will be concurred in.

If anything were needed to show the true value of asphalt as a pavement, the condition of West Madison street would supply the want. The pools in the holes which therein abound just now furnish the small boys of the neighborhood an opportunity to go fishing without having to wander far from home.

Why is the esteemed Tribune so hard on the poor old Illinois and Michigan canal? It is a venerable institution and about as useful now as it ever was.

It looks as if the Civil Service Commission had burned its fingers in connection with the Health Department investigation. Perhaps the Commission is waiting to cool off before announcing its findings.

Hon. F. O. Lowden's campaign assumed a literary aspect during the past week. He entertained thirty country editors at his Ogle county farm the other day.

Chicago's Mayorette mapping out the policy of the Democratic party in the coming national campaign is a good joke.

An increase of \$32,440,530 in the valuation of personal property in Cook County is shown by the Board of Assessors' figures for 1903 over those of 1902. And still the payroll patriots say we haven't taxes enough to run the municipality. When will the organized appetite be satiated?

According to the political gossips Hon. Charles S. Deneen has now begun to lay wires down the State for the Republican gubernatorial nomination. Doubtless, however, when the present able incumbent of the gubernatorial chair returns from his European trip, he will find many handy men on hand armed with the latest improved type of political wire clippers.

## METER DEAL REVIVED.

**Efforts Are Being Quietly Made to Resurrect This Scheme to Mulct Property Owners.**

**Squelched by Public Opinion Once Before It Will Meet the Same Fate Again.**

**Installation of Meter System for Water Supply Means Imminent Danger of Epidemics.**

**Property Owners Ground Under Additional Taxation Would Be Compelled to Restrict Use of Water.**

**Otherwise Rents Would Be Raised and Tenants Would Virtually Be Paying the Tax.**

Attempts are once again being made to revive the water meter deal.

Certain individuals over at the city hall have been preaching of late about the alleged merits of the system and certain of our daily contemporaries have been airing these individuals' views in their columns and exploiting them editorially.

The public should watch these movements closely and when the proper time comes squelch the plan as it did once before and that not very long ago.

The Eagle had the satisfaction of knocking out the water meter scheme when it was first sprung on the public; but it is back in the ring again and apparently will have to be given the same kind of handling which it received before.

All that is needed to put the meter measure to sleep once more is to tell the plain truth about it.

The facts bearing upon the plan to work a water meter measure through the Council and to foist the system upon the property owners of Chicago were so fully stated in these columns some months ago that it is hardly necessary to repeat them in full now.

Among the principal points to be considered are these:

Chicago has the most abundant water supply of any city in the world.

Its water system is excellent and has been made so by the taxpayers under the present frontage system of taxation.

The water department is not only self-sustaining under this system but its surplus earnings are constantly being used for the sustenance of other funds.

There is therefore no need for further grinding the property owners by an additional and excessive water tax in the shape of a meter system.

This plan, if put in vogue, would compel every householder in Chicago to put meters in his houses or flats.

This might mean millions for somebody, or perhaps for "a ring," but it would mean ruin for hundreds of poor property owners, besides amounting to a prohibition of improvement of vacant property.

Careless tenants in flats using water meters lavishly could run up ruinous water taxes on the owners thereof.

The latter in self-protection would be forced to restrict by provisions in the leases the amount of water to be used by the tenant.

This would conduce to dirt, and epidemics would surely result.

The only other recourse property owners would have would be to raise the rents in proportion to the increased taxation caused by the meter system, in which case, it will be plainly seen, the tenants would in the long run be the sufferers from this proposed impost; they would really be the ones who would be paying the meter tax.

There is no necessity for this meter business. The people are taxed heavily enough already, considering the returns they get from it. There should be and there will no mercy shown to any scheme by which small property owners are to be ground by additional taxation for water.

Now that the pneumatic tube ordinance has passed the council the public will be on the look out pretty soon for considerable improvement in the mail service. Any additional facilities

placed at the disposal of our present able postmaster, Hon. Fred. E. Coyne, are certain to be availed of to the fullest extent.

The impudence as well as the ignorance of the so-called Municipal Ownership League is exemplified by the attack made upon Judge Grosscup by that organization the other day.

The eminent jurist of the Federal bench was scored by these individuals for his attitude as receiver in the discussion of the traction problem. Harrisonism in city affairs is largely responsible for this sort of thing.

If Dublin J. Bryan is to hitch up with Chicago's Mayorette in "setting the pace for next year's Democratic campaign," as the Tribune puts it, the party will have to look out for the ditches by the road side.

Being unable to find bidders for its proposed issue of \$500,000 worth of bonds, the County Board has decided to offer them for popular subscription. It is to be hoped that this move will be more successful than the previous effort to dispose of them.

County Commissioner Edwin K. Walker is one of the most useful of Cook County officials. Mr. Walker has recently developed a plan by which he predicts a saving of \$20,000 to \$50,000 in the courts by systematizing the work of jurors and having fewer jurors on the payrolls.

The Drainage Board has decided upon an important step in the direction of taking advantage of the water power and annexation laws passed by the last Legislature. Chief Engineer Randolph has been instructed to prepare specifications for the development of the water power at Lockport at an expenditure of \$2,700,000.

State's Attorney Deneen is hurrying up the trials of the cases against the persons indicted in connection with the alleged election frauds of the Eighteenth ward. These trials may result in some further needed safeguards being thrown around the Australian ballot law. Make it thorough, Mr. State's Attorney.

No matter how the coming campaign on the Republican side in Cook county may result, one thing that is certain is that William Lorimer will be just as strong a factor in it, if not stronger than he has ever been. Mr. Lorimer is a master of the science of politics and he has to-day as strong and loyal a following in the active organization, and among the rank and file of the workers of the party as he ever had. Mr. Lorimer has not yet shown his hand in the approaching campaign but when he does it will be both seen and felt. The main reason for this is, William Lorimer has never lost any of his following because he has never gone back on a friend and has always lived up to his word.

Mr. Albert Graff is one of the best known and most reputable business men in Chicago. The firm of Albert Graff & Company, cement paving con-